

# IBP Carton and Tray Update

## save time

Companies operating in the Food & Beverage sector have to face a more and more competitive market and are required to offer a constantly diversified range of products, in order to meet the consumer's disparate exigencies. Therefore, the solutions implemented by packaging machine manufacturers are expected to be innovative, cost-effective, efficient, sustainable and able to realize appealing packages.

Smiflexi range of automatic packers provides the end user all the technical and functional specifications required to manage production cycles efficiently and economically and to enable quick switch from one format to another.

Among the new opportunities offered by Smiflexi division there is the innovative Easy-Load cardboard blanks magazine, an accessory device (available both for the wrap-around case packers of the WP series and the heat-shrinkwrappers of the SK series) which features considerable advantages from an operating and functional point of view. With Easy-Load the operator can easily load cardboard blanks - stacked horizontally in uniform groups - because the feeding belt of the magazine is positioned at the same working height as the packer's infeed belt, rather than under it.



## Tried and Tested

**Neil Fowell, MD of Kliklok International comments:**

“As price competitiveness between UK's supermarkets becomes fiercer, packaging has increasingly become a key area of improvement for food manufacturers to ensure that products stand out in a crowded market place whilst reducing costs. With wraparound cartoning being a relatively easy way to achieve this we continue to see more and more frozen and chilled foods being packaged in this way particularly as it clearly reduces packaging costs.

We look to address the challenges and issues which arise from the constant evolution of the food and drink industry and its packaging requirements by offering bespoke solutions to manufacturers. Our new Certiwrap Elite machine is designed to run up to 200 cartons per minute and can handle the more complex meal trays, tubs or pot shapes – individually, in multi-packs or layered – in a wide range of formats.

Capable of improving flexibility on the production line, the Elite easily adapts to different pack styles making it ideal for full sleeves,

wraparound sleeves and gusseted packs as well as upright shelf-ready display-style cartons. Our initial Certiwrap range was developed in order to address issues experienced with tapered open ended sleeving, which requires the packaging to be loose enough to surround a carton before it can be tightly wrapped.

The Elite features a choice of twin or triple arm carton feeders to improve handling and is designed to increase throughput rates on high-speed lines, being capable of packaging at speeds of up to 300 cartons per minute dependant on flight pitch.

The solution devised by SMI eliminates the disadvantages related to the manual loading of the cardboard blanks magazine, which force the operator to bend their body continuously to place the blanks in the bottom part of the machine.

The operator just places the board blank stacks on the outermost roller conveyor so that the automatic control system can perform all the subsequent steps. Thanks to specific sensors, the layout and feed of the cardboard blanks on the conveyor belts fitted with the motorized roller and their loading into the packer's magazine is, in fact, fully automated.

The Easy-Load system, even the unloading of the board blanks is performed automatically, after processing a certain format, through a series of steps carried out in reverse order as compared to the loading steps.

#### Fridge packs realized by SMI wrap-around packers

The technology used in the Easy-Load magazine also features the great advantage of ensuring fluid and constant picking operations with a wide range of cardboard blanks having a thickness between 0.5 mm and 5 mm.

Thanks to the innovative Easy-Load cardboard blanks magazine, Smiflexi wrap-around packers of the WP are able to meet multiple exigencies: they can pack different types of products (glass, PET, cans, etc.) in different kinds of containers, of large or small size: kraft-paper boxes, microwave or corrugated cardboard boxes.

Smiflexi wrap-around packers of the WP series can pack bottles and cans in cardboard boxes, called Fridge Packs, specifically designed to fit into the limited space offered by fridge compartments. Thanks to an innovative design, a pre-scored breakaway panel allows the consumer to conveniently take out of the package just the bottle or can he actually needs. The box thus becomes a dispenser of the products included in the packs.

The technology used in the Smiflexi "Easy-Load" magazine features the great advantage of using Kraft-paper with a wrap-around packer. Kraft paper ensures a solid packaging, despite its reduced thickness. The polish, white surface of kraft paper is an optimal solution, ensuring excellent



printability and appealing graphics, in order to draw the customer's attention on the products displayed on the shelves at the sales outlets.

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*Elite joins our portfolio of wrap-around cartoning solutions that have been successfully tried and tested by packaging professionals across global manufacturing industries. It is designed as an evolution of those previous models and combines our engineering expertise gained over the last 50 years and drive for innovation to create a wrap-around cartoner that stays at the forefront of carton and product control while simplifying the set up process for manufacturers. ”*

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